

THE ASYLUM

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“Gold, silver, gems ... all such things
bring only a mute, a superficial pleasure.
But books thrill you to the marrow; they
talk to you, counsel you, admit you to
their living, speaking friendship.”

.....

FRANCESCO PETRARCH
1304–1374

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The Asylum

Vol. 30, No. 4

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Photograph of Peter G. Washington, 1860s (Brady National Photographic Art Gallery collection, National Archives).



Editors' Choice

For several years now, *The Asylum* has not enjoyed a cornucopia of submissions from which to choose. This shortage has resulted in late issues and, from time to time, thin issues. The NBS Board has addressed this problem by creating (or re-creating) the position of Editor-in-Chief, whose job it is to round up material for our long-time Managing Editor, David Yoon, to transform into finished product. John W. Adams has volunteered to fill the position of Editor-in-Chief for 2013, with Elizabeth Hahn taking over in 2014.

Traditionally, *The Asylum* has emphasized "original research". We will cast our nets broadly to catch ever more of this precious commodity, but we will also publish "opinion". We have a large membership and we want to hear from more of it: book reviews, auction reviews, new discoveries, likes and dislikes. Your contributions can be one paragraph in length or multiple pages. The object of our hobby is to collect, study, and enjoy numismatic literature, and the object of *The Asylum* will be to facilitate all of the above.

In addition to more content of an informal nature, readers will be treated to regular columns by two of the Club's pillars, Scott Rubin and David Fanning. We will leave it to Scott and David to describe their intentions, but suffice to say that they each have a deep well of knowledge from which to draw. Bottom line: we hope to regularize the schedule on which we publish at the same time that we titillate you with a broader mix of content. Stay tuned.

John W. Adams

The Man Who Slept in the Library of Parliament

Chris Faulkner

MPs must have done it. Senators too. Perhaps even a Prime Minister now and then. Fallen asleep that is. In the Library of Parliament. But those were probably naps or snoozes in the course of checking Hansard or reading Committee reports. No, the man who fell asleep in the Library of Parliament was serious about it. He did it over night, over many nights. After all, he lived there. That man was Louis-Joseph Casault (1838–1914). He was a well known Ottawa, Canada, coin and token collector. His day job was Chief Messenger and Caretaker of the Library.

Louis-Joseph Casault was a Casault from the village of Saint-Thomas-de-Montmagny, Quebec, a common family name from that area of Normandy origin. Saint-Thomas (now called the city of Montmagny) is on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, in Montmagny county, about 50 kilometers downstream from Québec City, opposite Isle aux Grues. Casault is easily the most famous family name in this region of the Province of Quebec. A Louis-Jacques Casault (1808–1862) was the founder and first rector of Laval University, and a Louis-Adolphe Casault (1832–1876) was a lawyer, soldier, and commander of militia who served during the Red River Expedition in 1870–71. Both are in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (vols. IX and X, respectively). Then there was Sir Louis-Napoléon Casault, Q.C. (1823–1908), a highly respected judge, professor, member of the Provincial Legislature for Montmagny who, in 1867, was elected to the first Parliament of Canada. Naturally, the history of Montmagny was written by a Casault, Flavien-Édouard-J., *Notes historiques sur la paroisse de Saint-Thomas de Montmagny* (1906).

Our Louis-Joseph was honored with a biographical sketch in P.-Napoléon Breton's *Illustrated History of Coins and Tokens Relating to Canada*, who reports that he was born in 1838, began collecting in 1865, and



The Library of Parliament. Image courtesy of Library and Archives Canada (Mikan 3349319).

by 1894 was said to have “the most complete collection in Ottawa, and also one of the best in Upper Canada” (1894: 226). On July 1, 1907, when Casault retired from the Civil Service, he returned to Saint-Thomas-de-Montmagny and eventually sold his collection to Breton, who then sold it to the Montreal collector W. W. C. Wilson ([Petrie] 1962: 132). When the collector R. W. McLachlan came to write Casault’s obituary notice for *The Numismatist* in 1914, he remarked that Casault was “the best informed and most enthusiastic of a numerous band of Ottawa collectors” (McLachlan 1914: 307). Casault was surely one of the “14 membres fondateurs”—so reads the token Breton no. 825—of the Société Numismatique d’Ottawa in 1891. In 1891 Casault published a bibliography



Louis-Joseph Casault. From Breton (1894: 157).

based on his personal collection of works related to his other interest, religious controversy in nineteenth-century Canada: *Table alphabétique de brochures, manuscrits et articles de journaux canadiens et étrangers sur les difficultés religieuses au Canada de 1840-1891*. That was followed in 1892 by his *Price List of Canadian Coins and Medals, for Sale or Exchange*.

But how did M. Casault come to sleep and live in the Library of Parliament? The unpublished Minutes of the Joint Committee on the Library reveal that when the newly completed library building was to be occupied in 1876 it was proposed and agreed that “it was indispensable for the proper care and security of the Books and other property to be deposited in that Building, that a Caretaker, in the service of the Library, should live upon the premises; it was unanimously Resolved (on motion of Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Trudel), that L. J. Casault, Chief

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LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

OTTAWA, CANADA.

1892.

Title page of Casault's fixed-price list of 1892. Image courtesy of the National Currency Collection, Bank of Canada.

Library Messenger should have apartments in the Basement of the New Building, and should take charge of the same, and have the oversight of all cleaning, and other necessary service, for the safe keeping and suitable preservation and protection of the Library” (Minutes 1876: 223). And, indeed, Ottawa city directories thereafter give Casault’s residence as the Library of Parliament.

In 1880, for the sum of \$2,500, apparently with the support of none other than Sir John A. Macdonald, the Government of Canada purchased the collection of coins, tokens, and medals formed by Gerald Hart of Montréal (Minutes 1879: 255). This collection, the most significant of its time, which mirrored the history of Canada, was housed in the Library of Parliament and, as Caretaker of the Library and a numismatist, Casault was made its curator. The Library Committee evidently had high regard for Casault, because its Minutes earlier referred to him as “trustworthy and experienced” and recommended that he be “the sole custodian of the keys of the various apartments used in connection with the Library” (Minutes 1876: 236). Casault’s salary in 1880 was \$800, which was raised to \$900 in 1883 after he petitioned the Committee. Breton says that Casault added to the Hart collection while it was in his charge, insofar as funds were made available to him for purchases. Casault is also supposed to have catalogued the medals in the collection although, unfortunately, no such catalogue appears to have survived ([Petrie] 1962: 131). The Hart collection eventually went to the Public Archives. When the National Currency Collection was formed at the Bank of Canada, Hart’s coins and tokens went to the Bank while his medals stayed with Library and Archives Canada.

Fortunately, a contemporary account of the holdings of the Library of Parliament sheds some additional light on its numismatic collection. In 1892, William Kingsford (1819–1898), government surveyor and civil engineer, a journalist, an author (of a ten-volume history of Canada), and a numismatist (he wrote *A Canadian Political Coin*, an 1874 pamphlet on the Vexator Canadensis token), published a description of the collection:

It is not kept in cabinets, but placed under glass cases, so that it may be remarked by the many holiday visitors who enter the library. It is well arranged in this form as one of the sights by the custodian, Mr. Casault. Care is taken by him to keep it up to the latest standard. There are many medals annually struck to record passing events, especially in

connection with the Roman Catholic societies, and to perpetuate the merits of some enterprising trader. . . . In the form in which the medals and coins are kept, they are well arranged, and much attention has been bestowed to keep the collection *au courant* of the latest pieces struck in the Dominion, and in obtaining examples of the coinage current during French rule. The collection bids fair to be as perfect as it can be. At present it is weak on one or two sections, especially with regard to the sacramental tokens [i.e. communion tokens]. It is to be hoped that no opportunity which offers for legitimately completing this national collection will be allowed to pass by. . . . According to Mr. Casault the Canadian coins number 731, the medals, 546; making a total of 1,277 (Kingsford 1892: 116–119).

The reference to 731 “Canadian coins” should be understood to mean tokens as well as coins.

In 1892 Casault issued his personal numismatist token for exchange with other collectors of his day. It comes in copper and white metal and measures 29.35 mm in diameter. One hundred are said to have been struck (Breton 1894, no. 779). R. W. McLachlan summarized Casault’s contribution to numismatics as follows: “He was a most courteous gentleman, and was ever ready to converse with collectors on his favourite subject. Hardly any collector visited Ottawa without having a numismatic chat with Mr. Casault and being shown the Hart collection under his guidance. The writer has many pleasant memories of visits paid to



L.-J. Casault’s personal token, Breton no. 779. From the collection of the author.

Mr. Casault in the library and in his own den in the rear of the library, looking over his treasures” (McLachlan 1914: 307). Ottawa has a rich numismatic history and Louis-Joseph Casault should be remembered as an important part of it.

My thanks to Joe Jackson for making available the Minutes of the Joint Committee on the Library.

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The United States Postal Guide and Official Advertiser: A Pioneering Numismatic Journal

Joel J. Orosz

If you happened to be a coin collector during Millard Fillmore's administration, to what national magazine would you have turned to read all of the breaking numismatic news? Not to *The Historical Magazine*; this estimable publication, which would become the American numismatic journal of record prior to the end of the decade, was not yet, in 1851–1852, a glimmer in its publisher's eye. No, in those two years, the coin collector's go-to journal was, improbably enough, *The United States Postal Guide and Official Advertiser*. A first-class title for an American philatelist, one might think, but likely not worth a cent to a numismatist. Quite the opposite, however, is true: in its two-year run, the *Postal Guide* offered no philatelic content whatever, but delivered an embarrassment of numismatic riches. It featured regular reports on the U.S. Mint, an occasional letter from the Mint's Director, interesting fillers about specific coins, the very first nationally-published review of an American coin auction, and two important letters from Professor Daniel Edward Groux about his collections of coins, medals, and numismatic literature. The *Postal Guide*'s pioneering coinage content has never registered with coin hobbyists. That content was so rich, however, that it deserves to be reintroduced to twenty-first-century numismatic bibliophiles.

The *Postal Guide* was launched in July of 1850, by partners Peter G. Washington and Charles M. Willard. Washington, styled as "Senior Editor," had been with the United States Post Office Department from 1835 to November of 1849, serving as the Post Office's sixth Auditor during the last four years of his employment. Willard we know less about, and in any case his tenure was brief; the *Postal Guide*'s third number,

Figure 1 (opposite). First page of first issue of the *Postal Guide*.

THE
UNITED STATES POSTAL GUIDE
 AND
OFFICIAL ADVERTISER.

☞ To show what is done, and what should be done, in Office. ☞

The functions of Office are the practical
 illustrations of the Constitution.

+

And every incumbent should feel him-
 self an Exemplar of its wisdom.

Vol. 1.] WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY, 1850. [No. 1.

PETER G. WASHINGTON, } EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS
 CHARLES M. WILLARD, }

TERMS.—THE UNITED STATES POSTAL GUIDE AND OFFICIAL ADVERTISER, containing from 24 to 48 super-royal octavo pages, is published monthly for ONE DOLLAR ONLY, per annum, payable in advance—or five dollars for six copies ordered at any one time.

PREFATORY NOTICE.

THE enterprise in which we now embark, and of which this paper is at once the commencement, and a sample of those to follow, has for its aim no less a purpose, than to impart instruction, in the general and detail, to the Officers and Agents of the American public, in respect both to their duties and to their rights, and to make them and the people at large acquainted with the organization, decisions and action of the Executive departments of their government. There has hitherto been no vehicle for the regular and proper communication of information of this kind. The publication of the Laws and the issue of instructions, more or less comprehensive, and at intervals more or less extended, have proved wholly inadequate, in the absence of the construction of those Laws, as applied to particular cases, and of details and illustrations to make the regulations and instructions intelligible. The valuable documents annually reported to Congress are too voluminous, and are printed in quantities too small for general circulation; whilst the debates in Congress and the commentaries of the press upon their proceedings, and the proceedings of the Executive branch of the government, besides turning mostly upon general principles, address themselves only to party ends, and to matters of national policy. These publications in their various forms are highly useful in them-

selves as far as they go, and some of them indispensable; but there are many that do not reach the hands of all, nor if they did, do they furnish those rules, methods and examples, for the dispatch of the public business, which can render the discharge of public duty either safe or easy, whether in respect to the incumbent himself or the department or bureau under which he acts. We shall make an honest effort to supply this vacuum, and to provide for these necessities. If we succeed in rendering the functions of the primary offices more uniform, methodical and exact, we shall make the administrative duties of the departments more easy and effective, and thereby promote the real and substantial interests of the country. And this we expect to do, to some extent at least, apart from and independently of any party or personal interest or question whatever.

It is known to most of those to whom this paper will be sent, that the Senior Editor was Auditor of the Post Office Department until the month of November last; with by far the larger portion of both Postmasters and Contractors he has had direct intercourse, in person or by letter. He entered the department fourteen years since, and for many years previously, had been, first in the War Department, and subsequently in the Treasury. He has therefore had the best opportunity for understanding the ar-

dated September 1851, reported his resignation. His replacement was Columbus Alexander, the periodical's printer. The *Postal Guide*'s purpose was succinctly summarized in its subtitle: "To Show What Is Done, and What Should Be Done, in Office." In the absence of a published compendium of current Post Office Department laws and regulations, Washington and his partners sought to educate postmasters around the nation about their rights and duties while holding office.

The nineteenth century, however, belonged more to the generalist than to the specialist. In the *Postal Guide*'s very first number, the editors declared their intention to go beyond the confines of the Post Office to make "... the people at large acquainted with the organization, decisions, and action of the executive departments of their government." Prominent among these executive departments, of course, was the United States Mint. Most numbers of the *Postal Guide* carried monthly summaries of coin production at the main Mint in Philadelphia, as well as for its branches in Dahlonga, Charlotte, and New Orleans. Sometimes the reports were spiced with editorial insertions from local newspapers, such as this reprint from the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, appearing in the January 1852 issue: "We will only add that the Mint is now in excellent working condition and capable of any demand that is likely to be made upon the institution. The management was never more efficient than at the present time."

The Mint's "mother ship," the U.S. Treasury Department, had its turn in the barrel with this interesting report from the September 1850 number: "If payments to this depository be made in American Eagles, half Eagles, or quarter Eagles, the money is counted, and put up in roleaus, keeping each denomination separate, and putting a uniform number of coins in each roleau. The Eagles and half Eagles are put in roleaus of \$100 each. Quarter Eagles in roleaus of \$50 each. Should time not permit this arrangement of the roleaus as they are received, they are put away in bags of \$5,000 each, till leisure be afforded to manage them." ("Roleau" is derived from the old French *rolel*, meaning a small roll of coins wrapped in paper. This knowledge gives the reader of *The Asylum* an opportunity to flaunt erudition at the next rare coin show: simply saunter up to a dealer and inquire as to whether he is selling any BU "roleaus.")

The most unexpected communication from the Mint to be found in the pages of the *Postal Guide* appeared in the issue for February of 1851, reproducing a letter dated January 13, 1851, from Mint Director Robert

Maskell Patterson to William V. Brady, Postmaster of New York City. Mr. Brady, it seems, had complained about the dearth of small-denomination silver coins necessary to make change for postal patrons. Patterson, in response, explained that the influx of California gold had rendered that metal cheap in relation to silver, which caused the hoarding and exportation of silver coinage, which in turn made gold the preferred medium for the payment of debts. The Mint was powerless to change the realities of the marketplace, especially since its deposits of silver were continually diminishing. "Considering these facts," concluded Patterson, "creditors, and the post offices in particular, will find that the only remedy in their power is to decline receiving any coin in payment of debts which do not constitute the precise sum due. The obligation of making *change* is certainly not required by law." Patterson closed with a pithy illustration: "A double-eagle may certainly be declined, if offered to pay a five-cent postage; and if a double-eagle, then why not any other coin, except the exact half-dime itself?" The peculiar economic conditions of the early 1850s, therefore, led to the highly unusual spectacle of the Director of the United States Mint urging merchants to refuse to make change for purchases!

A year and a half after Patterson gave his "exact change" advice, the gold/silver ratio was apparently in better balance, if this filler, copied from the *Philadelphia Ledger* and presented in the June 1852 number, is to be believed: "Three cent pieces are all the time to be had at the mint, in exchange for gold, if applied for in sums of \$30 and upwards. They are a very convenient coin, and are at last driving out the large and inconvenient cent." This observation proved prescient, for only a few years later, the Mint struck its last circulating large cent.

Fascinating though these glimpses of early 1850s commercial coin transactions may be, they pale in historical importance next to something completely novel: the very first nationally-disseminated report on the outcome of an auction sale of coins (a similar report appeared in the pages of *Hunt's Merchant's Magazine*, but not until six months after the one in the March 1851 issue of the *Postal Guide*).

The story, reprinted from the *Philadelphia Bulletin* of February 21, 1851, opened with the facts: "Messrs. M. Thomas & Sons commenced last evening the sale of the collection of coins, medals, and autographs of the late Dr. Lewis Roper, deceased, of this city. It is probably unequalled by any private collection in the United States, and the announcement of

its sale created quite a stir among our *virtuoso*.” The account recorded, rather breathlessly, the seemingly incredible realization of some American coins and medals: “A half dollar, with the head of Washington, dated 1792, brought the enormous price of \$18. . . . An American silver dollar of 1838, with the flying eagle, brought the extravagant price of \$5, and the half dollar of the same coinage, \$7.25!” The notice concluded with the observation that the “great mass” of the collection remained to be sold on the second night, which confirms the discovery revealed by the author in his January 2001 article on Dr. Roper in *The Numismatist*, that Attinnelli erred in listing the Roper Sale as a one-day-only affair.

The notice of the Roper Sale appeared, under the headline of “Great Sale of Coins,” on page 277. On the facing page 276 is a story headed “United States Mail Steamer Arctic.” A mail steamer, of course, was a natural topic of interest for anyone concerned with the postal service, and indeed a number of articles about the transatlantic rivalry between the steamers of the American Collins Line and the British Cunard Line appeared in the pages of the *Postal Guide*. This chance juxtaposition of articles takes on a freight of irony when one considers that Jacob Giles Morris, a major buyer in the Roper Sale, was destined to be among the approximately 350 people who lost their lives on September 27, 1854, when the USMS *Arctic* sank after colliding with a fishing boat off the shores of Newfoundland. Another numismatic casualty aboard that doomed liner was the extremely rare pattern 1733 Rosa Americana twopence (one of only four known), which was being transported to its American buyer, the New York numismatist (and also Roper Sale participant), Charles Ira Bushnell. It is indeed ironic that “This magnificent ocean steamship,” as the article styled it, would take with it the life of one Roper Sale participant and the property of another.

Continued perusal of the *Postal Guide* soon draws attention away from this numismatic shipwreck toward the spectacle of the numismatic train wreck known as Professor Daniel Edward Groux. A citizen of Switzerland, Groux immigrated to the United States in 1844, his baggage bursting with a collection of nearly 7,000 coins and medals, plus a numismatic library consisting of dozens of works in Latin, German, French, and English. Or so the professor claimed, but it must be stipulated that he was hardly the most reliable of witnesses. Groux hoped to sell his coin and medal collection to the Library of Congress; when the Library demurred, he turned to Harvard College; rebuffed again,

his next stop was the youthful Smithsonian Institution. This overture, too, being denied, Groux opened, at about the same time that the *Postal Guide* was being published, his own numismatic museum, but it quickly failed. Repeated rejection proved to be the mother of invention, for the professor devised a lottery scheme to dispose of his collection (see Fig. 2); despite the sale of tickets to eminent Bostonians including numismatist Dr. Winslow Lewis and philanthropist George Peabody, the raffle was canceled, and the collection (along with Lewis' and Peabody's cash), remained in Prof. Groux's hands.

Increasingly desperate, Groux, in 1856, brought suit against the most eminent Bay Stater of them all, Charles Francis Adams. He alleged that Adams, who had lent him money, taking part of his coin collection as collateral, had wrongfully appropriated the coins for his own use. Adams, both the son and grandson of U.S. Presidents, enjoyed a well-deserved reputation for rectitude, and the trial's proceedings revealed Groux to be a serial prevaricator. The jury deliberated all of seven minutes before finding for Adams. Many of Groux's remaining coins were, in the 1860s, lost as collateral for yet another loan, this one from Mrs. Benjamin Ogle Tayloe of Washington, D.C. The remnant (1,156 lots) was offered at auction by William Strobridge in New York City on April 7-9, 1874. Strobridge referred to the late professor as "the fond old dreamer," but in light of his decidedly infamous numismatic career, it would be more accurate to refer to Groux as the "pawned old schemer."

Most of this melancholy tale was yet untold when the *Postal Guide* republished a pair of letters from Groux that had originally appeared in *The Republic* magazine. These letters, in their bombast and their manifold contradictions, foreshadowed the professor's later career as a thimblerrigging adventurer. The first, "On Numismatical Knowledge in the United States," was published in the *Postal Guide* for April 1852, and the second, "On Numismatics in the United States," appeared in June 1852, which, incidentally, was the final issue of Peter G. Washington's magazine.

In his first epistle, Groux—so much for flattering his adopted countrymen—stated flatly that "It is generally believed that numismatical science has made but little progress in this country." Numismatics, he stoutly maintained, was indispensable to a proper understanding of history, which made it essential for the Library of Congress to possess a comprehensive collection of the coins of all nations, from all periods

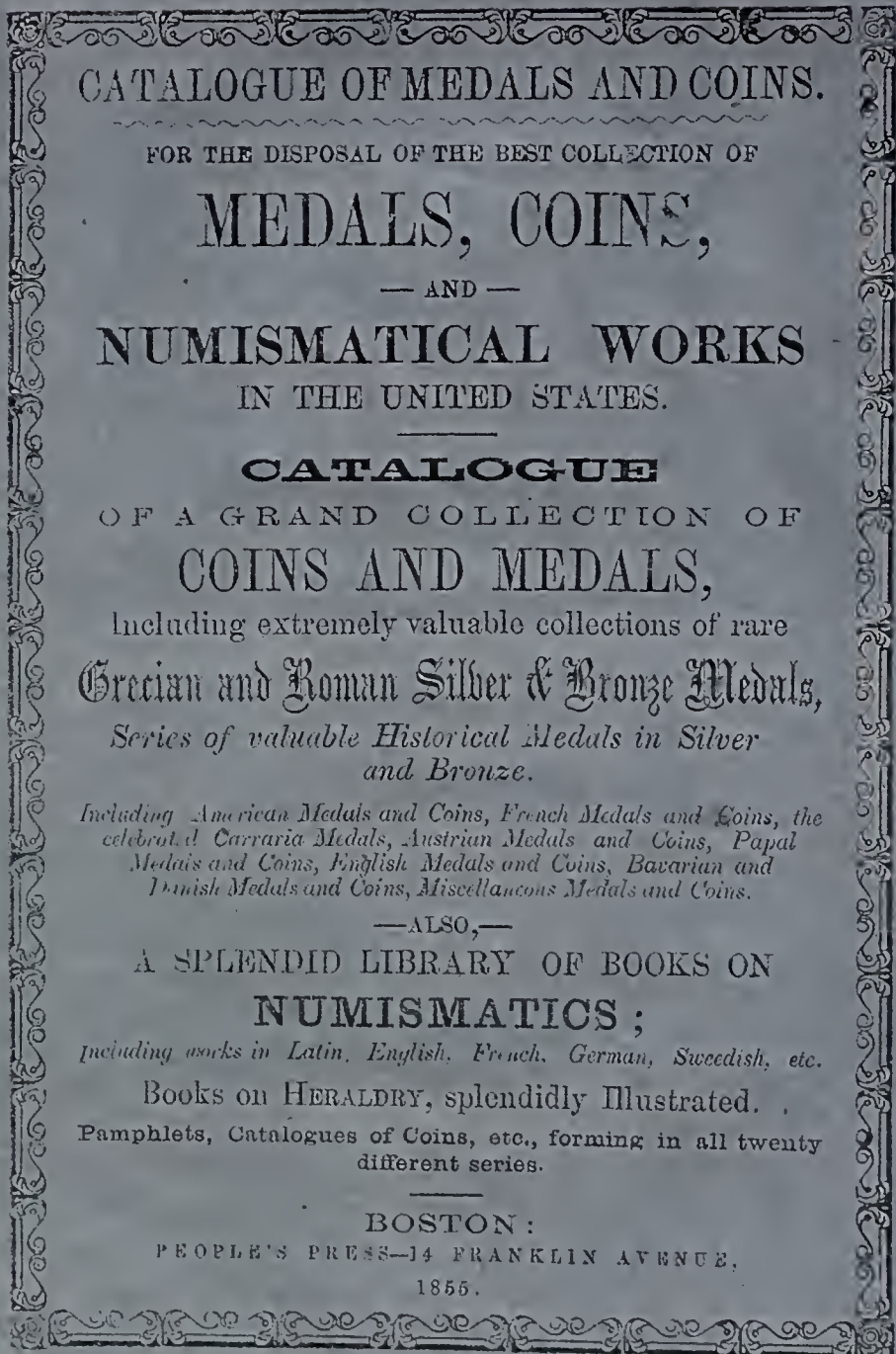


Figure 2. Catalogue for the lottery of Daniel Edward Groux's collection.

of history. Happily, "I brought over from Europe in 1844 a splendid collection of coins, that took me over twenty-five years to collect . . . it comprises now about seven thousand medals and coins, besides a large numismatical library, where all the coins are described." A latter-day numismatist may well arch an eyebrow at an assertion that, in 1852, coins from many different nations in all major time periods were well-described in the literature then extant, but no matter, for Groux's rhetoric grows only more inspired.

He proclaimed his numismatic collection to be "the best in the country," consisting of Greek kings, Greek medals of cities, Roman Consular medals, Roman emperors, Papal coins, Royal coins, Ecclesiastical coins, Medals of principalities and eminent men, Town Money, and Republics. Instead of providing detailed descriptions of the pieces under these headings, he spent the last three paragraphs of his letter making an oddly contradictory series of assertions, ranging from "the discredit under which numismatics is held in this country" to "America is not so much behind Europe in this science as is generally believed."

The professor's second missive suggested that, whatever subjects he may have taught in his academic career, mathematics surely was not among them. He began by revealing that his collection of coins and medals was formed by "Mr. Lemner, the keeper of the Ambrosian Museum in Inspruch, Tyrol. . . . In 1839, this gentleman died suddenly, and his son sold the whole of his collections to me." In his first letter, Groux stated that his coin collection had taken him twenty-five years to gather; now he says that he bought it mostly formed only thirteen years earlier. In his first letter, his collection was divided into ten groupings; now it requires only five. For each of them, the coins "are in the best preservation," and collectively, the five groups contain "coins of all ages and all nations of the world." In case anyone missed that last point, Groux reiterated that his collections "form an uninterrupted suite for most of the nations of the world, of the past and of the present." And, despite his tenure of only eight years in the new world, "The coins of America, and principally those of the United States, are very numerous, and . . . all that is scarce and rare of this country is to be found in Series No. 3, and in beautiful preservation." This confident assertion notwithstanding, there is no record of even a single great rarity in the U.S. series ever residing in the Groux collection. In fact, when Charles Francis Adams catalogued the coins he had received from the professor as collateral, he

found them to be decidedly ordinary.

Groux closed his second letter by naming thirty-eight books residing in his numismatic library, which he claimed was merely a selection from a larger whole. If the “pawned old schemer” actually owned these volumes, it would have made his numismatic library, at least, among the finest in the United States in 1852. The list of titles, however, is so extensive that this examination will have to be the subject of another article in *The Asylum*.

Groux’s second letter constituted one of the last pieces printed in the *Postal Guide*’s swan song. Theron Wierenga, who reprinted the *Postal Guide* in 1982, suggested two reasons for its demise. First, Washington and Alexander had raised subscription rates for the third volume, causing a defection of subscribers. Second, the 1852 publication of *Laws and Regulations of the Post Office Department* obviated one of the main reasons for the *Postal Guide*’s existence. So, the June 1852 issue, which completed volume 2, was the magazine’s last.

Although his publication was finished, Peter G. Washington was not. President Franklin Pierce appointed him Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in 1853, which post he filled for Pierce’s entire term, leaving office in 1857. Washington apparently served as an officer in the Civil War, no doubt in the militia, for when he died in New York City on February 10, 1872, he was eulogized as a “Colonel.” His remains are buried in Washington D.C.’s Congressional Cemetery.

Colonel Washington had one other connection to numismatics. In 1837, a brig christened the *Peter G. Washington* was added to the fleet of the federal Revenue Service. On August 26, 1839, while cruising the waters of Long Island Sound, the *Washington* took into custody the schooner *Amistad*, which had been commandeered by rebellious Africans seeking to avoid slavery in Cuba. The Africans were successfully defended at trial by John Quincy Adams, former President of the United States, father of Charles Francis Adams, and himself a notable numismatist (see “John Quincy Adams and the *Other* Report on Weights, Measures, and Coinage” in *The Asylum* for January–March 2012). The brig *Washington* was later transferred to the Coast Survey, where it became the first American ship to conduct oceanographic research; ultimately, it was assigned to the War Department, where it served in both the war with Mexico and the Civil War. It was destroyed by Confederate forces while stationed in Mississippi in 1862.

The brig named *Washington* is gone, but the contents of the *Postal Guide* published by Peter G. Washington are still very much with us. He and his partners had, by accident as much as by design, succeeded in printing the earliest American journal of numismatic significance. If you wish to read this magazine, both of its volumes are available on Google Books. If you actually want them on your shelves, there are three ways in which to achieve this goal. Original printings of the *Postal Guide* appear to be very rare in the marketplace, although that may change as public and academic libraries discard books no longer in demand. The aforementioned 1982 reprint by Theron Wierenga of Muskegon, Michigan, is a brown cloth, gilt-lettered, octavo, two-volume affair that is neatly and accurately reproduced from the original. This reprint appears to be rather scarce, as well. Finally, the ubiquitous print-on-demand publishers will be only too happy, for a moderate price, to create a softbound copy of both volumes for you, albeit with much lower production values than the Wierenga reprint.

However you gain access to the considerable numismatic content within the pages of the *Postal Guide*, your efforts will be repaid with useful—and sometime whimsical—information. Where else might we learn of the scourge of split gold dollars (June 1852) or read a long and earnest essay upon the monetary value of guano (May 1852)? Without question, although its existence was ephemeral, the *Postal Guide* preserved much numismatic knowledge worthy of saving. So we must add Peter G. Washington's name to the honor roll of numismatic publishers, even if it might justly be said that he succeeded in this particular business without really trying.

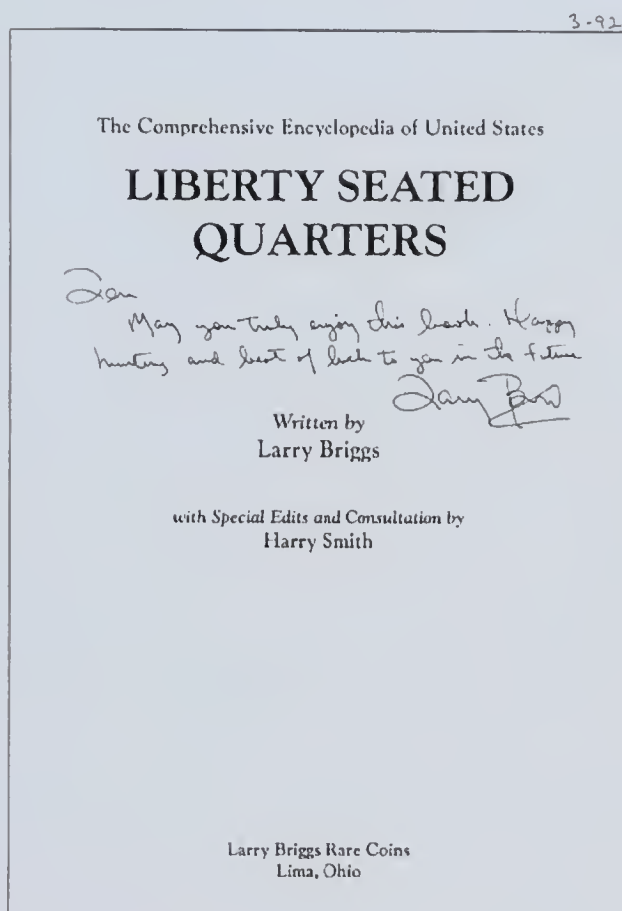
Liberty Seated Quarter Literature

Leonard D. Augsburger

This essay is a brief introduction to literature related to Liberty Seated quarters. I'm assuming most collectors have already acquired the collective volumes of the *Gobrecht Journal*. If not, go get them and then come back! But there are other important resources, too.

I started collecting Seated quarters *circa* 1990, and Larry Briggs' book on the series fortuitously appeared shortly thereafter. My copy is inscribed by Larry and dated March 1992 (see image on next page). The book was issued in both hardbound and softcover formats. Five copies were leather-bound, none of which have appeared on the open market. One is held by a California quarter specialist and another by a well-known old-time New York dealer. Briggs retains a copy; the other two are currently unaccounted for. Long out of print, used copies of the hardbound and softcover editions must now be hunted in the stocks of numismatic literature dealers and online booksellers. A softbound copy was recently listed on www.abebooks.com at \$170, which strikes me as excessive. With persistence a copy can be found at a much lower level. On the other hand, if you want it this very instant, pay up!

Briggs' book is absolutely indispensable to seated quarter collectors. The first and only substantive study of these die varieties, Briggs forever draws the line in the sand as the reference point for further research. Briggs nailed the die varieties for most of the coins with lower mintages. For some of the highest mintage coins, die marriages may well number over a hundred, and Larry made the wise decision to not insist on completion before publishing. As Larry states in the book, one could take a single issue (1853 w/arrows and rays, for example) and make a lifetime of its study. For these coins he has noted the more prominent and obvious varieties for each date. The photography in the book is excellent and



the detailed illustrations nicely facilitate die attribution. The dedicated quarter collector will give this book a work out. My personal copy has a tattered dust jacket, other quarter collectors have reported copies being so dog-eared that they have chosen to tear off the cover and spine and start all over again at the bookbinders.

While the Briggs book is well known, what is not so well known is a follow-up article published in the December 14, 2007, *Coin Dealer Newsletter*, which offered Briggs' updated opinion on die varieties and condition rarities within each issue in the series. Later, in 2011, in *Gobrecht Journal* 111, Greg Johnson published a monster article on the top twenty-five varieties within the quarter series. For the quarter collector, this issue should be torn up and pasted into the Briggs book page or by page, or at least be close at hand. Johnson updated the Briggs book on a number of varieties and in addition offered critical commentary based on a further twenty years of market activity. The photography, as in the Briggs book, is again well suited for making attributions.

A number of auction catalogues should also be in the library of the Seated quarter collector. First up are the two collections upon which Briggs based much of his work. Briggs' personal quarter collection was sold at the September 1999 Heritage Long Beach auction. The auction catalogue is still online at the Heritage website, and while Heritage has a rock-solid reputation for making available their auction archives, I still like to have a hardcopy in my library. Many of the coins from this collection, in SEGS holders and attributed as Briggs coins, still float around the open market. Every quarter collector should have at least one. There were several hundred in the sale, so there are plenty to go around. I was looking at one such coin in my collection and after studying the Briggs book realized it was one of the plate coins—a pleasant surprise. Briggs also used many coins from the Frog Run collection as plate coins. This high-grade quarter collection was sold by ANR in November 2004 and March 2005. Finally, the Eliasberg auction catalogue (Bowers & Merena, April 1997), while focusing on very high-grade specimens, summarizes a wealth of research on the Seated quarter series.

I would be remiss in the discussion of the quarter literature if I did not mention the two-volume photographic record of the Gene Gardner collection. Issued in oblong format with matching slipcase, the full-color presentation of the Gardner collection is no less than stunning. Published privately in 2010 in an edition of ten, only one set has appeared on the open market, selling for \$700 at the LSCC ANA club meeting auction in Chicago in 2011 to a proof quarter specialist. The Gardner volume is the *sine qua non* of the quarter literature, as it would be virtually impossible to match the quality of the coins depicted therein, not to mention the physical production of the volume itself. As the numismatic bookseller Charlie Davis likes to point out to book buyers, “No, the coins DO NOT come with the book!”

Edward Cogan's 1871 Montreal Sale

David F. Fanning

On April 3–5, 1871, the New York auction house of Bangs, Merwin & Company held a sale of coins. Published by Edward Cogan (Figure 1), the catalogue of the sale was titled *Catalogue of a Choice and Valuable Private Collection of Roman, Greek, English, Scotch, American, Canadian, and Miscellaneous Gold, Silver, and Copper Coins and Medals, Also, Several Rare Numismatic Books*. It has more concisely been dubbed “The Montreal Sale” by numismatic bibliophiles. The sale was of moderate importance, being rated A by John W. Adams for British coins and B for ancients.¹

The catalogue (Figure 2) was offered in two forms: a regular edition akin to most other catalogues of the day and another featuring a photographic plate depicting some of the pieces offered in the sale. The use of photographic illustrations in numismatic auction catalogues was still unusual at this time, and Cogan's sale was only the third publication of the sort to include a photographic plate. The earlier two were also Cogan sales: his 1869 sale of the Mortimer Mackenzie collection and his sale the following year of material from the John Allan estate. The illustrated version of the Montreal catalogue is not advertised in the unillustrated version, and it is not known to the present writer if Cogan simply sent the illustrated version to prominent clients or whether he advertised their availability in some other way. The plated catalogue is about as common as early plated sales get, and is seen nearly as often as the unplated version.

The owner of the collection being offered is not identified in the catalogue and has been a matter of some debate over the years. Early bibliographer Emmanuel J. Attinelli wrote that “This collection, generally

¹ John W. Adams, *United States Numismatic Literature: Volume I, Nineteenth Century Auction Catalogs* (Mission Viejo: George F. Kolbe, 1982), pages 21 and 155. The sale is number 27 in Adams's enumeration of the Cogan series, with Adams noting the sale's “Excellent English/Scotch” and “Side view penny.”



Figure 1. Edward Cogan.

known as the 'Montreal' or 'Canada' collection, was sold through Mr. Cogan. The work of cataloguing the coins is attributed to Mr. A. Sandham, of Montreal, who was probably the owner."² Alfred Sandham (1838–1910) was one of the foundational numismatists of Canada and author of the 1869 *Coins, Tokens and Medals of the Dominion of Canada*, the first substantive work on Canadian numismatics.³ His numismatic credentials were exceptional and at the time of the sale he was probably the best-known Canadian numismatist. As late as 1885, Lyman Low was stating that the collection was Sandham's.⁴

² Emmanuel J. Attinelli, *Numisgraphics, or a List of Catalogues, in Which Occur Coins or Medals, Which Have Been Sold by Auction in the United States, Also, a List of Catalogues or Price Lists of Coins, Issued by Dealers, Also, a List of Various Publications of More or Less Interest to Numismatologists, Which Have Been Published in the United States* (New York, 1876), page 58. Reprinted by Quarterman in 1976 as *A Bibliography of American Numismatic Auction Catalogues, 1828–1875*, with new material by John W. Adams.

³ Alfred Sandham, *Coins, Tokens and Medals of the Dominion of Canada* (Montreal: Daniel Rose, 1869).

⁴ Lyman H. Low, *The Balmanno Collection* (New York, June 10–11, 1885), lot 1039.

Richard Ashurst Bonvic

CATALOGUE

OF

A CHOICE AND VALUABLE PRIVATE COLLECTION OF ROMAN,
GREEK, ENGLISH, SCOTCH, AMERICAN, CANADIAN, AND
MISCELLANEOUS GOLD, SILVER, AND COPPER

COINS AND MEDALS,

ALSO, SEVERAL RARE

NUMISMATIC BOOKS,

TO BE SOLD AT AUCTION BY

MESSRS. BANGS, MERWIN & CO.,

694 BROADWAY, N. Y.,

On the 3rd, 4th, and 5th April, 1871,

COMMENCING EACH DAY AT FIVE O'CLOCK, P. M.

Orders will be executed by the Auctioneers; MASON & Co., 139 North 9th St.,
Philadelphia; or by EDWARD COGAN, 95 William Street, New York.

EDWARD COGAN,

DEALER IN GOLD, SILVER AND COPPER COINS, AND MEDALS,

95 William Street, N. Y.

1871.

Figure 2. The front cover of the Montreal Sale.



Figure 3. James Ferrier.

As impressive as Sandham may have been, however, he was not the owner of the Montreal Sale's contents. Canadian numismatic researcher Fred Bowman⁵ has identified the owner as James Ferrier (Figure 3), an identification seconded by expert Warren Baker.⁶ Ferrier (1800–88) also has an impressive resumé, both in numismatic and other matters. Mayor of Montreal from 1844 to 1846, he went on to help found the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal in 1862. He became a Senator in 1867 and served as president of the Montreal and Lachine Railroad and as a director of the Grand Trunk Railway Company.⁷

Not only have numismatists been uncertain about the owner of the collection—they have also been unclear about who catalogued the sale. Edward Cogan's name is printed on the cover, but some have felt that he only organized the sale. Attinelli thought Sandham had catalogued

⁵ Fred Bowman, *Collectors of Canadian Coins of the Past* (n.p.: Canadian Numismatic Research Society, 1972), page 11.

⁶ Warren Baker, *List No. 31* (Montreal, 1976), page 39.

⁷ Bowman, *op. cit.*

it, though he doesn't say what led him to this conclusion. It is true that more than one Cogan catalogue is known to have been catalogued by either the owner of the collection or by another dealer. Ebenezer Locke Mason was unsure about the cataloguer, despite been named as an agent for the sale on the front cover. In the May 1871 issue of *Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, he wrote that "It has been quite a mystery to know whose collection was offered at auction on the 3d ult., and an equally mystifying puzzle to know who catalogued the unknown cabinet."⁸

The single photographic plate depicts seventeen of the pieces offered in the sale. As with the earlier Mackenzie and Allan sales, the plate in the Montreal Sale is an original mounted albumen print. The plate itself is rather small, measuring only 10 by 14 cm, and existing specimens have faded a bit over the years (also typical of early Cogan plates).

As with Cogan's Mackenzie sale, the coins and medals depicted on the plate of the Montreal sale are not identified by lot number, nor are plated pieces indicated throughout the text of the catalogue.⁹ While identifying the plated items would seem to be an easy task, the combination of Cogan's minimalist (and occasionally inaccurate) descriptions, coupled with the fact that only one side of each piece is included on the plate, can make identification of the depicted pieces difficult. The double figure prepared for this article should therefore be of some value to owners of the catalogue (Figure 4). On the left, we depict the actual plate. On the right, we give the lot numbers arranged as they are seen on the plate itself. The pieces chosen by Cogan for inclusion in the plate are interesting for a variety of reasons. They include the following (in order of their appearance on the plate).

Lot 992 is the first coin shown, described in the catalogue as "India Dollar, 1189. Rude piece of Silver like the Spanish Cobb Money; rare; v.f." Cogan gets off to a poor start with this piece, which is actually a silver mithqal of Muḥammad III of Morocco, struck in Ribāṭ al-Faṭḥ in AH 1189 (AD 1775). It sold for \$3.00 to Dr. Charles Spier.¹⁰

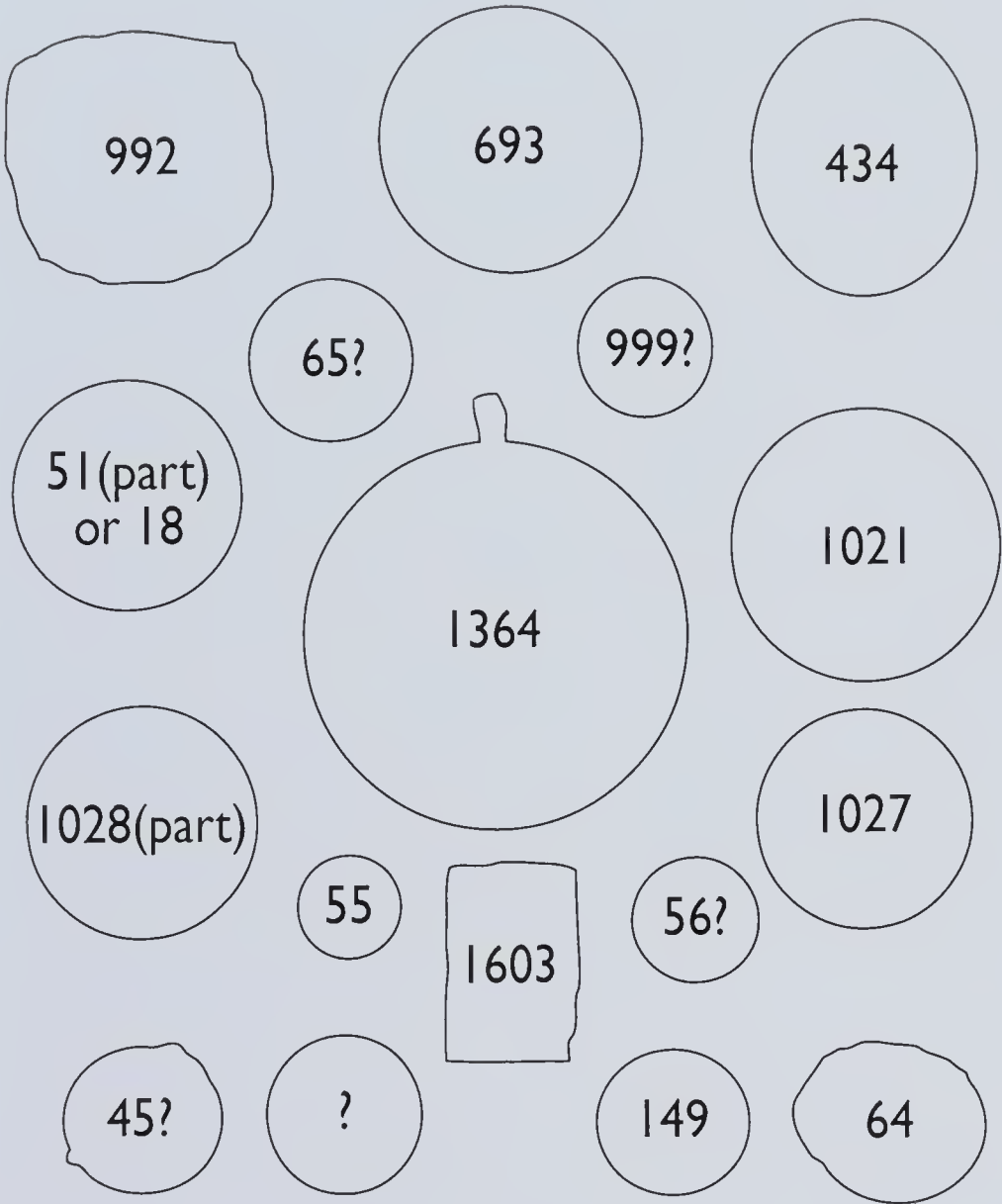
⁸ Ebenezer Locke Mason, *Mason's Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine* vol. V, no. 5 (May 1871), page 79.

⁹ In Cogan's Allan sale (May 25–27, 1870), the plated coins are grouped together in one section and identified as such.

¹⁰ All information on prices and buyers is derived from the priced and named copy in the author's library. On Spier, see Q. David Bowers, *American Numismatics before the Civil War, 1760–1860, Emphasizing the Story of Augustus B. Sage* (Wolfboro: Bowers and Merena, 1998), pages 31–32.



Figure 4. (Above) The photographic plate included in some copies of the sale. (Opposite) The lot numbers of the plated coins, as arranged on the plate.



The second coin depicted is lot 693, a 1652 Commonwealth shilling in VF. It sold for \$2.50 to “Elliott.” This could be the same Elliott for whom Ebenezer Mason held a sale later the same year (Sept. 5–6, 1871).

The third piece is lot 434, Thomas Simon’s medal commemorating the Battle of Dunbar (September 3, 1650), struck by order of Parliament. It is described in Volume I of Hawkins et al.’s *Medallic Illustrations*¹¹ and illustrated on Plate XXXV of the series of plates prepared for that volume by Grueber.¹² It sold for \$7.25 to “Moore” (probably Michael Moore¹³).

The next coin on the plate presents a problem. Cogan’s strengths were in British and American coins, and he was decidedly on shaky ground when cataloguing ancient coins. In his defense, few numismatists manage to be a universal expert and this 1871 sale took place more than a decade before Head’s *Historia Numorum*, the first really useful single-volume work on Greek coins, had been published. Still, it has to be acknowledged that Cogan’s descriptions of Greek coins are somewhat lacking.¹⁴ The coin depicted in position 4 is a Thourioi stater in silver. The only coin identified by Cogan as being from Thurium is lot 65, which he describes as having an owl on the reverse. That said, the coin depicted in position 15 is also from Thurium. Lot 65 sold for \$1.25 to “Randall,” probably John Swan Randall rather than J. Colvin Randall.

The fifth coin depicted on the plate is also not catalogued correctly. It is a half paisa from Mysore, dated AH 1219, a relatively common coin. Unfortunately, it does not really correspond to any of Cogan’s descriptions. The closest match is lot 999, which he describes as an East India Company coin of AD 1744 depicting an elephant. That lot sold for 50 cents to Ebenezer Locke Mason, but may not be the lot shown on the plate.

The next piece depicted on the plate (position 6) is a silver tetradrachm of Ptolemy I. Cogan has a lot of two of these at lot 51, though it seems a bit odd to illustrate a piece from a group lot. That lot sold

¹¹ Edward Hawkins, Augustus W. Franks and Herbert A. Grueber, *Medallic Illustrations of the History of Great Britain and Ireland to the Death of George II* (London, 1885), page 392, no. 14.

¹² Herbert A. Grueber, *Medallic Illustrations of the History of Great Britain and Ireland to the Death of George II* (London: Printed by the Trustees of the British Museum, [1904]–1911), plate XXXV, no. 5.

¹³ On Michael Moore, see Bowers (op. cit), pages 32–33.

¹⁴ The present author makes no claims of universal expertise on his own part, and acknowledges the help of Edward J. Waddell in identifying some of the ancient Greek coins on the Cogan plate.

to "Ripley" for \$3.25.¹⁵ Another possibility is that Cogan mistook the coin for a tetradrachm of Alexander the Great, one of which sold as lot 18 for \$5 to "Rice."¹⁶

Position 7 on the plate is taken by lot 1364, the large gold "Jubilee Medal struck by John George, Elector of Saxony, 1630, to commemorate the Celebrated Augsburg Confession, drawn up by Melancthon with Luther's approbation," according to the lot description. This piece, more accurately a 12 ducats piece, sold to Ripley for \$24.

Returning to an area Cogan felt more comfortable with is the piece in position 8 on the plate, an 1838 side-view penny token of the Bank of Montreal. This piece, unambiguously lot 1021, sold to "Shurtleff" for the strong price of \$25.¹⁷

Lot 1028 of the sale consisted of seven rare Canadian bridge tokens, attributed by the cataloguer to Sandham's work published only two years before.¹⁸ One of them is depicted in position 9 of the plate. The piece shown corresponds to No. 6 of page 41 of Sandham's work. The lot was purchased by "Sharpe" for \$2.75 a piece.¹⁹

Position 10 is taken by another rare Canadian token, the Bank Token Montreal 1/2 Penny (Breton 673). Lot 1027 of the sale, it was sold to "Leach" for \$11.²⁰

The next coin, in position 11, brings us back to ancient Greece. Cogan gets this one right (more or less), describing it in lot 55 as "Parium of the City of Mydia; Beautiful Head of Medusa; rev., a Bull: very rare; v.f." This hemidrachm of Mysia (Parion) was not quite the rarity Cogan said it was, and sold to Mason for \$3.00.

15 A Joseph B. Ripley subscribed to Crosby's *Early Coins of America*, but his recorded residence of Savannah, Georgia, suggests that the Ripley present at the New York sale was somebody else.

16 George W. Rice was collecting by this time, and this may be a reference to him.

17 The annotated copy of this sale in the author's library actually gives the name as "Shurbluff," but as this isn't a name and two Shurtleffs were active in American numismatics in the 1860s and '70s, I'm going with Shurtleff. As Dr. Augustine Shurtleff sold coins through W. Elliot Woodward in 1863 and 1865, the more probable active collector in 1871 was Nathaniel Bradstreet Shurtleff, who was active at least through the 1873, being a subscriber to Crosby.

18 Sandham, op. cit., page 41, nos. 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14 and 16.

19 I have not been able to identify Sharpe, and would appreciate hearing from anyone who might be able to shed light on his identity.

20 I am also unable to identify this bidder; though Warren Baker and I have discussed the possibility of "Leach" being J. N. T. Levick, the Breton 673 doesn't appear to be with the rest of Levick's Bouquet sous in W. Elliot Woodward's 67th sale.

The rectangular piece in position 12 is a Meiji silver bu (ichibu), struck in Japan under the emperor Mutsuhito in 1868–69. Lot 1603 in the sale, it is rather amusingly shown upside down on the plate. It sold for 35 cents to “Morse.”²¹

Position 13 is occupied by a coin of Rhodes, presumably one of the two in lot 56, described as having a “Fine full face with Flowing Hair.” The lot sold to “Deafendorf” for \$2.50.²²

The final row of coins on the Cogan plate consists of ancient coins, starting with a coin of Metapontum in position 14. While the sale included an archaic piece from this city (lot 14), the coin depicted is later. Three later pieces are listed as lots 44–46. While there is no real way to say for sure which lot is shown on the plate, lot 45 is graded very fine by Cogan, better than the other two, so we may assume it is the one depicted. It sold for \$2.00 to “Appleton,” presumably William Sumner Appleton.

As discussed earlier, the coin in position 15 is from Thurium, but the only coin catalogued as being from Thurium is that in position 4, noted as having an owl on the reverse. The coin in position 15 quite clearly depicts a bull on the reverse. While lots 55 and 59 are also Greek coins described as having a bull on the reverse, lot 55 is plated elsewhere (the gorgon head) and lot 59 is catalogued as being from Syracuse, so what exactly Cogan thought this piece was remains a mystery.

The coin in position 16 returns Cogan to more familiar territory, being a gold coin of Domitian (lot 149), which sold for \$7 to “McFarland,” a bidder whose identity remains unknown to this writer.

Finally, the coin featuring an equestrian scene on the lower right-hand corner of the plate is a silver coin of Tarentum (Taras). Lot 64 in the sale, it sold for \$4 to Randall.

While the plate depicts a number of interesting pieces, some of the sale’s strongest areas are either underrepresented or not represented at all on the plate. The important Scottish material is notably lacking, and the English content is only hinted at. Probably the most important piece in the sale not included in the plate is the gold Beaver Club medal awarded to Archibald McLennan for “Fortitude in Distress, 1792” (lot 1012).

²¹ The only Morse known to the author as being active in coin collecting in the early days of the hobby in the United States is Charles H. Morse, but he sold his collections in several sales through 1860, so this identification is doubtful.

²² Almost certainly Capt. Wilson Defendorf (thanks to David Yoon for this suggestion).

This medal, now in the Public Archives of Canada,²³ was purchased by Mason for \$33, the highest price realized for any lot in the sale.

Despite the inclusion of some important material, the sale was not particularly a success. The review of the sale in the *American Journal of Numismatics* gave the total proceeds as \$2,571.²⁴ Ebenezer Mason also discussed the performance of the sale in his *Magazine*:

A three days coin sale came off at Bangs, Merwin & Co.'s auction house, April 3, 4 and 5, comprising a very interesting lot of ancient and English coins, and a nearly complete series of Scotch pieces. The sale was well attended upon the first day, but the second and third days' attendance was very limited, and most of the gold and silver pieces sold very low—in a number of instances below par value. ... With few exceptions, the collection was notably over-described, and to this fact is due the falling off in interest and attendance after the first night's sale.²⁵

Cogan's grading does not appear to have been held as overly liberal, which may also suggest that someone else did the cataloguing. While a number of dealers and prominent collectors attended,²⁶ the results were uninspiring.

While the initial intentions of this writer were to clear up some of the mysteries behind the Montreal sale, a number of questions remain. Was James Ferrier definitely the owner? Of all of the coins or only of the Canadian pieces? Did Cogan catalogue the sale? If not, who did? Did whoever catalogued it select the coins for inclusion on the plate? If so, why were some very prominent pieces left out? And why are so many of these highlighted coins so poorly catalogued? Perhaps only a few of these questions can be answered with additional work.

²³ Baker, *op. cit.*, page 39.

²⁴ "Sale of Coins and Medals," *American Journal of Numismatics* vol. VI, no. 1 (July 1871), page 9. Attinelli gives the figure as \$2573.79, which this author is going to consider close enough.

²⁵ Mason, *op. cit.*, page 79.

²⁶ In addition to those mentioned throughout, John W. Kline acted as agent for Richard Ashhurst Bowie.

Kolbe & Fanning's 2013 New York Book Auction

George F. Kolbe

It seems hardly possible, but George Frederick Kolbe and Kolbe & Fanning have conducted 23 public auction sales of important numismatic works in New York City in the past 31 years. It started in 1982 with a series of fifteen annual joint sales with Spink & Son Ltd., culminating in 1996. Stand-alone Kolbe sales were held in 1984 (the Lester Merkin Library), 1997 (the Leon Hermes Library), 2009 (two sales: the Ferdinando Bassoli and the Twinleaf Libraries), and 2010 (the Stack Family Library). In 2011, the Kolbe and Fanning sales began and the third sale has just been concluded.

What a sale it was. One of the smaller New York auctions in terms of lots, but 271 in all, it nevertheless managed to achieve total results of over \$400,000 with the buyer premium, approaching one and a half times the total of the estimates. Two rare archives of Russian numismatic materials, one concerning the collection of Georgii Mikhailovich, the other the holdings of Isadore Snyderman, sold for \$60,000 and \$32,500 respectively [amounts quoted herein are hammer prices]. Some other random results follow: a complete set of American Numismatic Society Numismatic Notes and Monographs sold reasonably at \$3,000 on a \$4,500 estimate; an above average original copy of the legendary 1921 *Ars Classica* catalogue of the Pozzi collection of Greek coins was estimated at \$750 and hammered for \$1,100; the ever-popular Calciati multi-volume works on ancient Sicilian and Corinthian ("pegasi") coins performed well at \$1,400 and \$750; a truly remarkable 1720 illustrated manuscript on British coins, the earliest substantial work known to be extant on the topic, brought double its \$7,500 estimate; and a very nice set of the famous 1732-1737 five-volume work by van Loon on Dutch medals sold for \$500 above its \$3,000 estimate.

The final section of the sale, lots 162-271, was devoted to works on United States numismatics and, while perhaps not as notable as the preceding works on ancient and foreign numismatic topics, it was certainly

not lacking in interesting and desirable works. Indeed, the first lot was a photographically plated example of the 1906 Geoffrey Charlton Adams "Dixie Land" collection, unrecorded and the first illustrated example ever to appear at public sale. It hammered for \$4,500 on a \$4,000 estimate. Other lots of interest included a remarkable assemblage of research materials on early American medals which sold for twenty times its \$1,000 estimate (thanks to the generosity of Tony Terranova it will be deposited in the Rare Book Room of the American Numismatic Society's library); several long runs of early bank-note recorders, which generally sold near or above their estimates; an archive of inventories, correspondence, and other materials concerning the settling of the B. Max Mehl estate which brought \$1,700 on a \$1,000 estimate; the remarkable collection of Charles Steigerwalt catalogues and periodicals formed by the estimable late John Eshbach, virtually all of which brought estimate or more, sometimes much more; and a rare 1792 House of Representatives journal chronicling the establishment of the Mint which, at \$6,500, sold for twice its estimate.

Help Promote the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Howard A. Daniel III sets up a club table to represent the Numismatic Bibliomania Society (and the International Bank Note Society, Numismatics International, Numismatic Literary Guild, and several other organizations) at the MPC Fest, the International Paper Money Show, and the summer FUN Show. Howard will no longer set up at American Numismatic Association events and the January FUN Show.

The Asylum and NBS membership applications are given to numismatists interested in our society from the table. Journals and applications from other societies are also given out.

There are also world bank notes and coins to give to young and new numismatists in a packet which includes a consolidated membership application form for all of the groups. References are also given out, especially to teachers and scout counselors for them to use with their students and scouts.

Howard always needs volunteers to staff the table and needs your unwanted references, journals, world banknotes, and/or world coins. Please contact him at hadaniel3@msn.com to make donation arrangements. The best method is to take them to him at one of the shows or events he attends, otherwise you can mail them to him. Howard will reply with a thank-you letter which will describe the donation for tax purposes.

Book Reviews

George S. Cuhaj, ed., and Thomas Michael, market analyst, *Unusual World Coins*, 6th ed. Iola, Wis.: Krause Publications, 2011.

I wrote a five-page report on this book for the management at Medallic Art Company and sister company NorthWest Territorial Mint. (Medal manufacturer MACO was not, technically a mint until 1966 when it purchased its first coining press, NWT Mint has been a full-fledged mint all the time.) The sixth edition is a massive telephone-book-size compendium that lists, itemizes, illustrates, briefly describes—and prices!—what private mints have struck over the 222 years since Mathew Boulton established the first private mint, the Soho Mint in Birmingham England, in 1789.

Thus this book is a tribute to Matthew Boulton and what he created—a nongovernment mint with coining capability—the true definition of a private mint. He not only established a mint he improved coining tools and equipment, plus every step of coin and medal manufacture.

The world of coins, struck by both national and private mints, is chronicled by KP Publications of Iola, Wisconsin. Founded by Chester Krause in 1952, it is now under the banner of F+W Media Inc. The firm publishes the worldly acclaimed *Standard Catalogs of World Coins* and similar publications on paper money.

It now requires five of those telephone-book size volumes—six if you count a separate catalog of gold coins alone—to list all the coins struck by all the national mints for all the countries in the world. The five *World Coins* books, grouped by century starting in 1601, list the coins by country within each volume—then by type, then by denomination, then by date—and are constantly revised and updated.

All of these printed catalogs are generated from one massive database, called NumisMaster. By the magic of the computer it can break out all coins listed for the desired century and—voilà!—there's the text and photographs for the next edition with the latest entries entered just days before.

Coins struck by national mints are obviously intended for circulation in the country where located, or by custom minting for nations without their own mints. A few private mints have also struck circulating coins for countries without mints (as Franklin Mint did here in America for dozens of countries when it was active, 1969 into the 1980s).

But private mints also strike coins for private entities. These “coins” were included in the Krause NumisMaster databank, but they didn’t get published in any of the legal-tender *Standard Catalogs*. So in 1987 they were gathered up and published under the title *Unusual World Coins: A Standard Catalog of World Coins Companion Listing of Novel Non-Circulating Coins*.

That *Novel Non-Circulating Coins* part of the title was important because there was a class of coins, “Non-Circulating Legal Tender,” that did get listed in the standard catalogs. These were mostly bullion coins that were given a denomination to make them more attractive to precious-metal buyers. So bullion coins, plus all the other items struck by private mints in coin form, were published in Krause’s separate publication, *Unusual World Coins*. The *Novel Non-Circulating Coins* part of the title was dropped in the 2005 fourth edition.

Other than bullion items of interest for investors, *Unusual World Coins* is a tribute to collectors for all those other die-struck items. The only reason these “coins” are created—their only market—is not to circulate, but to be sold to collectors. Perhaps without these buyers all the private mints in the world would be factories manufacturing buttons or some other small mechanical parts.

Finally, *Unusual World Coins* is also a tribute to the staff at KP Publications. I can imagine the gigantic task of gathering, fact-checking, photographing, pricing, and entering all this data into one databank, and ultimately massaging all that text into printed form.

This activity has been ongoing since 1987 when the first edition of *Unusual World Coins* was published. Colin R. Bruce II was the first to enter foreign coin data years before, to start NumisMaster. He became editor of that first edition and gathered a staff to assist in this unique numismatic undertaking.

Thomas Michael joined KP Publications in 1988 as market analyst. His responsibility was pricing, to insure that the price of hundreds of thousands of coins were accurate and kept up to date for every edition, a chore he has dominated for 23 years.

George Cuhaj joined in 1994 and took on the chore of entering data and photographs as these came in to the editorial offices. George ultimately was given full responsibility for NumisMaster and the title of editor. His editorial authority now extends to all six world coin *Standard Catalogs* at KP Publications plus the world paper money catalogs as well. “I enter on average 150 to 200 new coins and 150 new photographs each week,” he told me in a phone interview. With side-by-side desks, George and Tom are in constant contact with each other to maintain the high standard of the *Standard Catalogs*.

George assigns a catalog number for each item; those destined to be published in *Unusual World Coins* all begin with an “x” prefix. He enters on NumisMaster that catalog number, data for issuer, date, obverse, reverse and edge descriptions, composition, weight and fineness if precious metal, mintage figures when known, other info. Some data—like designer or engraver—will not appear in the printed catalogs, but this is captured in NumisMaster as well. It would add thirty pages alone for Great Britain and Commonwealth countries if we printed Arnold Machin’s name as engraver, George said. Tom adds pricing in one or more of the three to five condition columns.

The selection of the category which the pair must determine for each item is the brilliance of NumisMaster. “We do this to bring similar items together under the same category,” George relates. While this is an easy task for coins of the same denomination issued year by year, it is not such an easy task for items in *Unusual World Coins*. There are 40 categories at present. There are no hard rules for determining a category. These can be what a private mint calls them, what a submitter states, or a descriptive term created by the editor.

NumisMaster, is composed of “lines of type” as George explained to me. Thus a category heading is a line for all the listings below it, until the next heading line, or the next country name. I commented this was “a brilliant way of arrangement” as it works for all the world’s coins, from all the world’s countries, for all kinds of coins, for all time. “You were the first to make that statement,” said George.

D. Wayne Johnson

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Bernard Garault, *Le pesage monétaire - boîtes et poids de France du XVIII^e au XIX^e siècle*. Paris: Les Éditions Cheveau-Légers, 2012. In French, with introduction in English and German. Softbound; 14.8 × 21.0 cm; illustrations in colour and black and white; 372 pages. Price: €29. ISBN 978-2-916996-47-9.

This book is a one-volume reference on the subject of coin weights and their boxes that is divided in two parts: the first is Garault's original research and the second is a reprint of A. Dieudonné's 1925 *Manuel des poids monétaires* (Handbook of Coin Weights).

Garault's work is the result of twenty-five years of collecting and research. As the title indicates, it takes us through the world of scales made and used in France to weigh coins from the seventeenth century to the nineteenth. He describes in great detail and illustrates the scales, weights, and their boxes (including those used when the metric system was introduced) and touches on the various French scale makers.

Dieudonné's 1925 work, still valid today, first speaks of the theory and doctrine of coin weights, such as their various uses (during coin-ing and in commerce). Then he proceeds to catalogue the coin weights of France, Great Britain, Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, the Rhine region, Italy, and central Europe.

This book is a worthwhile addition to the library of those interested in the subject. My rating, because it is highly specialized, is 4/5.

Serge Pelletier

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